

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	Milton I. Shadur	Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	04 C 5922	DATE	11/30/2004
CASE TITLE	Directv Inc. vs. William Woodlock		

[In the following box (a) indicate the party filing the motion, e.g., plaintiff, defendant, 3rd party plaintiff, and (b) state briefly the nature of the motion being presented.]

MOTION:

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DOCKET ENTRY:

(1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Filed motion of [use listing in "Motion" box above.]
(2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brief in support of motion due _____.
(3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer brief to motion due _____. Reply to answer brief due _____.
(4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruling/Hearing on _____ set for _____ at _____.
(5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Status hearing[held/continued to] [set for/re-set for] on _____ set for _____ at _____.
(6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pretrial conference[held/continued to] [set for/re-set for] on _____ set for _____ at _____.
(7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trial[set for/re-set for] on _____ at _____.
(8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Bench/Jury trial] [Hearing] held/continued to _____ at _____.
(9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	This case is dismissed [with/without] prejudice and without costs[by/agreement/pursuant to] <input type="checkbox"/> FRCP4(m) <input type="checkbox"/> Local Rule 41.1 <input type="checkbox"/> FRCP41(a)(1) <input type="checkbox"/> FRCP41(a)(2).
(10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Other docket entry] Enter Memorandum Opinion and Order. Woodlock's entire responsive pleading is stricken, with leave being granted to him to file a proper Amended Answer in this Court's chambers on or before December 13, 2004.
(11)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[For further detail see order attached to the original minute order.]

<input type="checkbox"/> No notices required, advised in open court. <input type="checkbox"/> No notices required. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notices mailed by judge's staff. <input type="checkbox"/> Notified counsel by telephone. <input type="checkbox"/> Docketing to mail notices. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail AO 450 form. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy to judge/magistrate judge.	courtroom deputy's initials SN	11/30/2004 11:10 AM 11/30/2004 11:10 AM	number of notices	Document Number 7
			DEC 02 2004 date docketed	
			GMA docketing deputy initials	
			12/1/2004 date mailed notice	
			SN	
			mailing deputy initials	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

DOCKETED
DEC 02 2004

DIRECTV INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 04 C 5922
)	
WILLIAM WOODLOCK,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

William Woodlock ("Woodlock") has just submitted what he labels as his Answer, including no fewer than 22 purported affirmative defenses ("ADs"), to the lawsuit brought against him by DirectTV, Inc. ("DirectTV") charging him with satellite piracy. Even though pro se pleadings must be examined through a comparatively undemanding lens (Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972) (per curiam)), Woodlock's self-prepared pleading is defective in every paragraph--and more reasonable adherence to the established principles of pleading practice, even on the part of a pro se litigant, must be insisted upon. Accordingly Woodlock's entire responsive pleading is stricken, with leave however being granted to him to file a proper Amended Answer in this Court's chambers (with a copy of course being contemporaneously transmitted to DirectTV's counsel) on or before December 13, 2004--the day before the next scheduled status hearing in this action.

As a partial guide to Woodlock for that purpose, his

attention is directed to Appendices 1 and 5 to this Court's opinion in State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Riley, 199 F.R.D. 276, 278 (N.D. Ill. 2001). It seems highly doubtful that, given the objective good faith that is demanded of every litigant (as well as every lawyer) by Fed. R. Civ. P. ("Rule") 11(b), Woodlock can assert the types of blanket disclaimers and outright denials, or the blunderbuss ADs, that are contained in his present pleading. And he should understand the risks that are entailed by the absence of objective good faith in those respects.



Milton I. Shadur
Senior United States District Judge

Date: November 30, 2004